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# Farm Broadcasters Letter

Letter No. 2247

CURRENT RECORDS

January 30, 1986

## 1986 WHEAT, FEED-GRAIN PROGRAMS

Signup for the 1986 wheat and feed-grain programs will be held March 3 through April 11, according to Sec'y of Agriculture John Block. Other farm program provisions announced on Jan. 29 include: Producers may request 100 pct. of their diversion payments and 40 pct. of their projected deficiency payments when they sign up...Payment rates for the 2½ pct. paid land diversion for wheat and feed-grain producers were established at \$.57 per bushel for barley, \$.73 for corn, \$.36 for oats, \$.65 for sorghum and \$1.10 for wheat...The payment rate for the additional paid diversion option for winter-wheat producers is \$2.00 per bushel...Estimated per bushel deficiency payment rates are: barley, \$.95; corn, \$1.03; oats, \$.45; sorghum, \$.98; and wheat, \$1.83...Seventy-five pct. of the advance deficiency payments will be paid in cash during signup, and the remaining 25 pct. will be paid as payment-in-kind beginning May 1. Producers have from May 1 through Sept. 30 to request the PIK portion of their advance deficiency and/or diversion payments. Farmers may sign up for the 1986 farm programs at their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices, where they can also get full details on the program.

## CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block on Jan. 29 announced that the signup for the Conservation Reserve Program will take place Mar. 3 through Mar. 14 at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices. Block said approximately 69.5 million acres will be eligible in the 1986 crop year for entry into the program, a provision of the Food Security Act of 1985 that will take highly erodible land out of farming for 10 years and place the land into growing trees or other permanent vegetative cover. The Soil Conservation Service will determine the classification or erosion levels of land. All Class 6, 7 and 8 land is eligible along with any land in Classes 2 through 5 that is eroding at three times the tolerance level. Producers wishing to put land into the program must provide a cropping history covering the years 1981 through 1985. Set aside or diverted acres are not eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program. Reserve acreage will be over and above amounts needed to qualify for price support programs. For more information, contact the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service or Soil Conservation Service offices.

## 1986-CROP RICE LOAN & TARGET LEVELS

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block set the 1986-crop rice national average loan and purchase rate at \$7.20 per hundredweight and the target price at \$11.90 per hundredweight. There is a required 35 pct. acreage reduction for participants in the 1986 rice program.

SALES TO  
USSR

Private exporters reported sales of 350,000 metric tons of soybeans for delivery to the USSR during the 1985-86 marketing year and under the third year of the Long Term Grain Supply Agreement, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sales of wheat to the USSR for delivery during the third year of the agreement total 152,600 tons and corn, 6,198,400 tons. Sales of soybeans total 825,400 tons.

FARM FINANCES  
MAY STABILIZE  
IN 1986

The financial well-being of the U.S. farm sector continued to decline in 1985, but there are signs the situation may stabilize in 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The net cash income could about match 1985's record level as higher livestock receipts, continued large Government payments, and lower production costs about offset reduced crop receipts. However, net farm income is expected to fall further, primarily due to the drop in the value of farm inventories. As a result, the severe debt repayment problems facing 10 to 12 pct. of the Nation's farmers probably will persist in 1986.

MORE U.S. WHEAT  
TO BRAZIL

U.S. wheat exports to Brazil could be higher than expected in 1985/86, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is due to reported quality problems with Argentine wheat and Argentina's apparent inability to meet shipping schedules. Wheat not purchased from Argentina, which could total as much as 600,000 tons, may be purchased from the U.S. Brazil has long been an important U.S. wheat market, importing about 2.5 million tons per year over the past six years.

ASSETS, DEBT  
AND EQUITY  
ON THE FARM

Nominal farmland values fell an unprecedented 13 pct. in 1984 and around 8 pct. in 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The decline may be only 4 pct. this year. Farm debt, excluding household and Commodity Credit Corporation loans, dropped an estimated 4 pct. last year, and may decline another 2 pct. in 1986. The overall farm sector wealth and equity continue to decline. By the end of 1986, cumulative equity losses since 1981 could exceed \$250 billion--more than a fourth of peak values.

FARM INCOME

In 1985, farm income fell about a fifth from the record \$34.5 billion in 1984 and is likely to decline further this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Higher livestock receipts and continuing high Government payments under farm programs will bring net cash income near the record 1985 level. Thus, farmers without high debt will remain in a fairly strong liquidity position.

NONFAT DRY MILK  
TO MEXICO

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block announced an export sale by the Commodity Credit Corporation of 10,000 metric tons of nonfat dry milk valued at \$7.3 million to CONASUPO, the Mexican government's food purchasing agency. As of Jan. 10, CCC had 419,350 tons of uncommitted nonfat dry milk in its inventory.

COMMERCIAL  
RED MEAT  
PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. in Dec. 1985 totaled up 1 pct. from Dec. 1984, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Jan.-Dec. red meat production was 39.1 billion pounds, up fractionally from last year. Beef production at 1.85 billion pounds, was up 1 pct. from 1984. Veal production, at 46 million pounds, was up 18 pct. Pork production totaled 1.22 billion pounds in Dec. 1985, down fractionally from 1984.

FROM OUR  
TELEVISION  
SERVICE

WESTERN WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK...A mixed pattern of rain and snow in the fall and early winter in the West may indicate varied streamflow in the region later this year. Bill Flecke with USDA's Soil Conservation Service discusses the water supply outlook in the West. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (111)

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - I...Gordell Brown with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service outlines some of the provisions of the Conservation Reserve Program and what farmers must do to participate. Vic Powell interviews. (112)

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM - II...Gordell Brown with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service continues his discussion on the provision of the Conservation Reserve Program including eligibility requirements. Vic Powell interviews. (113)

EROSION OF NATURAL LANDS - I...Ernest Todd, USDA's Soil Conservation Service, describes the importance of farmer participation to long-term conservation objectives in reducing soil erosion. Vic Powell interviews. (114)

EROSION OF NATURAL LANDS - II...Joe Burt, a farmer from Pike County, Alabama, and USDA Assistant State Conservationist Robert Thompson, talk about the land conversion program - its effectiveness, and its appeal to farmers who have serious erosion problems. Vic Powell interviews. (115)



FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1496...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Brenda Curtis-Heiken interviews Dr. Walter Mertz, Chief of USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center, about the latest research findings that link obesity and heredity.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1485...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Nomination of Richard Lyng as Secretary of Agriculture; New agriculture yearbook; Future insecticides; Comments on the new farm bill.

CONSUMER TIME #978...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Cold dangers; A pattern for teen suicides; Beans not in style; Exotic fruits and vegetables; Car leasing upswing.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Feb. 4, Weekly crop and weather; Wed, Feb. 5, Energy, Agricultural resources and Fertilizer; Mon, Feb. 10, Crop production, Grain stocks, Cattle, Rice stocks, World ag supply and demand. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.

OFF MIKE

Mike Miller is leaving KAIT-TV, Jonesboro, AR, to become the new farm director at KOLN-TV, Lincoln, NE, as of Feb. 17. Guy Davis, who was farm director at KOLN-TV, is going back to school to earn his masters degree but will continue on at the station to host an hour-long program. Donna Dickson, KAIT-TV news director, is looking for a new farm director, so if you're interested, call her at 501-932-4379 ... Jack Stover has moved from WDZ/WDZQ, Decatur, IL, Jan. 20. He's now at KSOY, same city, as an account executive and farm sales specialist. He'll be working closely with Stu Ellis, KSOY farm director ... Jack Dillard is no longer farm director at KRMD, Shreveport, LA. The new owners of the station took farm programming off the schedule. Jack is now at KOOI, Jacksonville, TX ... Incidentally, John Eggerton of Broadcasting magazine called the other day to say he would be interested in being notified of job changes, retirements, etc. His address is: Broadcasting, 1735 De Sales St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 ... Nice note from Carl Sorenson. Many of you will remember Carl from his days as deputy director of the USDA Southwest Regional Information Office in Dallas, TX. In his retirement, he's working on a book about Norwegian Texans. He says he's progressing slowly but "...it's my first effort in writing a book and I want it to be a good one." ... The abilities of farm broadcasters are many and varied. The latest example is the fact the Ron Arp (KWHT, Pendleton, OR) ran the news line operation for the National Association of Wheat Growers held in Reno ... Minor shock when we opened up the January Agri Marketing magazine and were confronted by a picture of Johnnie Hood (WPTF/Southern Farm Net, Raleigh, NC), past president, NAFB. Seems, he's on the magazine's 1986 editorial advisory board.

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